

PRESIDENT SMITH, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

*Ud. Manning*

IT IS INDEED A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE A PART OF THIS CEREMONY TODAY BECAUSE IT HONORS A PERSON WHO HAS MADE SUCH A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE OVER THE PAST FORTY YEARS.

MR. OVID S. VICKERS, CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND FINE ARTS DIVISION AT THIS INSTITUTION, EARNED THE BA, MA, AND ED.S. DEGREES FROM GEORGE PEABODY COLLEGE IN THE FIELD OF ENGLISH. AFTER TEACHING ONE YEAR ON THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL IN GEORGIA AND SERVING TWO YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, HE HAS EFFECTIVELY USED HIS CREDENTIALS TO TEACH AND MOLD THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE STUDIED SPEECH, DRAMA, COMPOSITION, AND LITERATURE OVER HIS FOUR-DECADE CAREER AT THIS INSTITUTION. BESIDES HIS TRADITIONAL CLASSES, HE HAS TAUGHT HONORS COURSES, CHAIRED THE HONORS PROGRAM, AND LED IN ESTABLISHING AND TEACHING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CLASSES. HE WAS CERTIFIED FOR THE LATTER RESPONSIBILITY UNDER A GRANT FROM THE W.W. KELLOGG FOUNDATION THROUGH THE SPONSORSHIP OF PHI THETA KAPPA.

MR. VICKER'S PASSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN EDUCATING STUDENTS AND HE HAS EARNED THE REPUTATION THAT HE ACCEPTS NOTHING LESS THAN THEIR BEST WORK AND EFFORT. HE IS A MASTER TEACHER, IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE, AND HAS THE ABILITY TO INJECT JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF HUMOR INTO WHAT HE DOES. THIS COMBINATION HELPS TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY POPULARITY AND SUCCESS WITH HIS STUDENTS. HE HAS CONSISTENTLY PUT THEM FIRST AND FOREMOST IN HIS CAREER. FOR HIM, NOTHING MEASURES UP TO THEIR LEARNING AND BEING SUCCESSFUL IN THE MARKETPLACE. CONSEQUENTLY, HE HAS TAUGHT FOUNDATION COURSES TO MANY SCHOLARS WHO NOW FILL IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND THE BUSINESS WORLD.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM MR. VICKERS HAS BEEN AN EQUALLY ESTEEMED AND PRODUCTIVE INDIVIDUAL. HE HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AND WAS CHOSEN AS COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHER OF THE YEAR IN 1990. HE HAS BEEN SELECTED AS INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND HAS BEEN HONORED AS AN OUTSTANDING TEACHER BY THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE. HE IS A PROLIFIC WRITER AND HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN SUCH

**CONVOCATION**  
**to**  
**Honor**  
**Mr. Ovid S. Vickers**  
**in the Naming of the**  
**OVID S. VICKERS**  
**Fine Arts Center**



**Saturday, May 6, 1995**  
**2:30 P.M.**



## PROGRAM

Prelude .....	ECCC Brass Ensemble
Processional .....	Prelude to Die Meistersinger Wagner
Welcome to Guests .....	President Eddie M. Smith
Invocation .....	The Reverend Rick Brooks
Introduction of Speakers .....	President Eddie M. Smith
Speaking to honor Mr. Vickers:	
Opening Commendations .....	Mr. V. C. Manning Chairman, Board of Trustees
Additional Commendations .....	Dr. Richard C. Ethridge
Additional Commendations .....	Dr. Thomas Richardson English Department University of Southern Mississippi
Additional Commendations .....	Dean Phil A. Sutphin
Concluding Commendations .....	President Eddie M. Smith
Response .....	Mr. Ovid S. Vickers
Benediction .....	Dr. Richard C. Ethridge
Recessional .....	Prelude to Act Three Lohengrin by Wagner

*A formal dedication ceremony will be held immediately following the recessional in front of the building to be dedicated. A reception will follow the ceremony in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.*





